a What is claimed

CLAIMS

1. Random polymers of fatty alcohols with ethylene oxide and propylene oxide corresponding to formula (I):

$$R^1O(EO)_n(PO)_mH \qquad (I)$$

in which R^1 is an alkyl group containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms, EO stands CH_2CH_2O, PO stands for $CHCH_3CH_2O$ and/or CH_2CHCH_3O, n is a whole or broken number of 2 to 7 and m is a whole or broken number of 1.5 to 3, characterized in that the molar ratio of propylene oxide to ethylene oxide is from 10:90 to 50:50.

2. Random polymers as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the molar ratio of propylene oxide to ethylene oxide is from 25:75 to 40:60.

3. Random polymers as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that n is a whole or broken number of 3 to 5.

4. Random polymers as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that m is a whole or broken number of 2 to 2.5.

5. Random polymers as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that R^1 is derived from a fatty alcohol mixture containing at least 30% by weight of C_{14-18} fatty alcohols and at most 70% by weight of C_{6-12} fatty alcohols.

6. A process for the production of random polymers of fatty alcohols with ethylene oxide and propylene oxide corresponding to formula (I):

$$R^1O(EO)_n(PO)_mH \qquad (I)$$

with the definitions given in claim 1, by reacting ethylene oxide and propylene oxide with fatty alcohol having the formula R^1OH in the presence of aqueous bases, characterized in that the propylene oxide and ethylene oxide in a molar ratio of 10:90 to 40:60 are reacted with fatty alcohols by methods known per se.

7. A process as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the molar ratio of propylene oxide to ethylene oxide is in the range from 25:75 to 40:60.

8. A process as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that a fatty alcohol mixture containing at least 30% by weight of C_{14-18} fatty alcohols and at most 70% by weight of C_{6-12} fatty alcohols is reacted.

9. The use of the random polymers of fatty alcohols corresponding to formula (I) claimed in claim 1 as a surfactant in water-dilutable concentrates.

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